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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2000

PENNSYLVANIA EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT IN MARCH

HARRISBURG --- Egg production in **Pennsylvania** during March 2000 totaled 542 million eggs, up 2 percent from the 530 million produced in March 1999, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). The total number of layers averaged 22.0 million during March, 3 percent more than the 21.4 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,303 eggs during the month, a decrease of 23 eggs from March 1999.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2000 totaled 6.30 million, 3 percent more than the 6.11 million hatched the previous March. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 12.8 million during March 2000, down 5 percent from the 13.5 million hatched the previous year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.22 billion during March 2000, up 2 percent from the 7.05 billion produced a year ago. The total number of layers during March averaged 331 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,182 eggs, compared with 2,185 in March 1999.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during March totaled 39.6 million, down 4 percent from March 1999. Broiler-type hatch totaled 756 million, up slightly from the previous March. There were 25.8 million turkey poults placed in the United States during March 2000, down 1 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.